

REPORT

Of the Committee of Ways and Means, on the petition of Mary Graeff.

JANUARY 14, 1818.

Read, concurred in, petition rejected.

JANUARY 15, 1818.

Reconsidered, and committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee of Ways and Means, to whom has been referred the petition of Mary Graeff.

REPORT:

That the petitioner, the widow of Jacob Graeff, formerly a collector of the revenue in Pennsylvania, prays that his estate may be relieved from payment of interest on the sum which, on a final settlement of his accounts has been found to be due to the United States. It is stated, that after the time when he was removed from his office, (in 1802,) he was always ready to pay the amount really due, but that the supervisor of the revenue demanded from him, a much larger amount. He was sued in 1806, and in 1808, agreed to submit his case to the decision of the Secretary or Comptroller of the Treasury. The adjustment of his accounts, (in which the petitioner acquiesces, with the exception of the item of interest,) was made in April, 1816.

That a man who is removed from an office in the collection of the revenue, should pay interest for the money of the government which he withholds, seems fair and necessary. It may be presumed that he uses the money; and it is certain, that if he is to pay no interest, because the government claims from him, more than is due, he has no small encouragement to delay the production of the accounts and documents, which can alone enable the government to reduce its claim to the amount which is really due. Mr. Graeff might have paid the sum which he believed to be due to the Treasury, or, after 1806, into court.

The committee recommend a resolution, that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

